

MEDICAID ADULTS TO RECEIVE DENTAL COVERAGE IN COLORADO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – April 1, 2014 – Beginning today, eligible adults enrolled in Colorado Medicaid will have access to dental benefits. The new benefit will provide Medicaid enrolled adults, age 21 years and over, an annual dental benefit of up to \$1,000 in dental services. Historically, only emergency dental services were covered for adult Medicaid clients.

"Lack of preventive dental coverage can contribute to a range of serious health complications," said Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN, executive director. "This benefit will enable clients to get cleanings, minor fillings and diagnostic imaging services. Numerous studies have shown healthy teeth play a significant role in improving one's self-esteem, impact economic opportunities and lead to a better quality of life."

The new benefit is authorized by legislation passed last spring, <u>Senate Bill 242.</u> The new adult dental benefit will be implemented in two phases:

- **April 1, 2014** Basic adult dental preventive, diagnostic and minor restorative dental services (such as x-rays and minor fillings) and treatment planning will be covered.
- **July 1, 2014** More comprehensive adult services such as root canals, crowns, partial dentures, periodontal scaling and root planing (and other procedures requiring prior authorization) will be covered.

Clients may search for dental providers in their area by visiting the Department website at Colorado.gov/hcpf/findaprovider.

For more information including frequently asked questions about the new dental benefit visit Colorado.gov/hcpf/benefits.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The Department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income Coloradans who qualify. The mission of the Department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the Department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.